



Metropolitan King County Council

Room 1200, King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104-3272

(206) 296-0100
FAX (206) 296-0198
TTY/TDD (206) 296-1024

April 7, 2005

Sam Reed
Secretary of State
Legislative Building
P.O. Box 40220
Olympia, WA 98504-0220

Dear Secretary of State Reed:

The undersigned members of the Metropolitan King County Council respectfully request that your office initiate a review of King County's election procedures used in the November 2004 election. Authority for such a review may be found in RCW 29A.04.

RCW 29A.04.570 (1)(a)(ii) provides in pertinent part that your office shall conduct a review of election-related policies, procedures, and practices in an affected county if unofficial returns indicate a mandatory recount is likely in a statewide election or an election for federal office. As you know, the statute allows for reviews to be conducted after a recount though a preference is stated for conducting said reviews prior to a recount. RCW 29A.04.570 also provides that you may exercise your discretion to order a review regardless of the need for a recount. The statute contemplates that citizen requests might trigger a review.

We are very concerned with election procedures used during the 2004 general election and the resulting recounts in King County that resulted in hundreds of provisional ballots being processed without verification through poll location tabulation machines, hundreds of felons voting illegally, a large discrepancy between ballots received and voters credited, significant precinct voter to ballot discrepancies, flawed mail ballot reports that purport to reconcile absentee ballots that were received yet never counted or rejected, a failure to produce discrepancy reports prior to certification, and the acceptance of many new registration signatures just days before certification and weeks after the election.

And of course you know that the margin in the Governor's race in the 2004 general election was close enough to trigger the review provisions of RCW 29A.04.570.

Given the low confidence in King County's management of the 2004 election among the citizens of King County and the many outstanding questions regarding procedures used during the operation of that election, we believe it is appropriate for your office to conduct the above requested review.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Steve Hammond, District 9
King County Councilmember



Kathy Lambert, District 3
King County Councilmember